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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/934,725	08/20/2001	Steven W. Trovinger	10012357	5347
7590	11/10/2003			EXAMINER MACKEY, PATRICK HEWEY
			ART UNIT 3651	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/934,725	TROVINGER ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Patrick H. Mackey	3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                  2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 6,8-18 and 20-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22,23,26 and 27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2-6,8-13,15-18,30 and 31 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20,21,24,25,28,29 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 14, 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                  5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.                  6)  Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The amendment filed 10/7/2003 has been entered.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 14 is objected to because it depends from a canceled claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maruyama et al.

Maruyama discloses a sheet-wise binding system that includes a sheet transport path (401), a trimmer (406a, 407a), a stacking system (62), a binding system (52), and a controller that controls the sheet transport path and trimmer to trim the edges of the sheets at a varying location according to a trim schedule to create a saw tooth edge feature (see Fig. 31).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 32, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama et al. in view of Doery. Maruyama discloses all the limitations of the claims, but it does not disclose punching the sheets at a variable depth in a direction

perpendicular to an edge of the sheet. However, Doery discloses punching the sheets at a variable depth in a direction perpendicular to an edge of the sheet (see col. 7, lines 35-40) for the purpose of making longer (wider) tabs. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Maruyama by punching the sheets at a variable depth in a direction perpendicular to an edge of the sheet, as disclosed by Doery, for the purpose of making longer (wider) tabs.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed 7/17/2003 regarding claim 29 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
8. The applicant states that the system of the Maruyama patent is incapable of creating a saw tooth edge feature. However, the applicant has not defined the term "saw tooth edge feature" in the specification in such a manner that claim 29 does not read on the feature illustrated in Figure 31 of Maruyama.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. Claim 30 is generic and allowable. Accordingly, the restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn and claims 4, 5, 8-10, 13, and 16-18 are no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to this species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the linked species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable generic linking claim(s) be presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

10. Claims 2-6, 8-13, 15-18, 30, and 31 are allowed.

11. Claim 33 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. This application contains claims 23, 24, 26, and 27 drawn to species nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 6. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancelation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

***Conclusion***

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick H. Mackey whose telephone number is (703) 308-0630. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (703) 308-2560. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



Patrick H. Mackey  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3651

November 7, 2003